S. No.	Year	Place of accident & state	Nature of accident	Substance involved	Number of		
					Death	Injury	Evacuation
1.	1990	Baripad (Orissa)	Leakage	Oleum	—	140	—
2.	1990	Calcutta (West Bengal)	Leakage	Ammonia	—	120	—
3.	1990	Nagothane (Maharashtra)	Leakage	Gas	32	22	—
4.	1991	Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh)	Leakage	Gas	—	180	—
5.	1991	Bombay Ahmedabad Highway (Maharashtra)	Leakage	LNG	100	—	—
6.	1993	Kalayan (Maharashtra)	Release	Sulphuric Acid	9	123	—

(c) A Public Liability Insurance Act has been enacted in 1991 to award relief to affected persons in an accident involving hazardous chemicals.

Closure of Mines in Rajasthan

@@1060. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court has recently ordered immediate closure of all mines located within the protected forest areas of Sariska in Rajasthan; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to implement the court's orders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Rajasthan has confirmed that mining activities have been stopped within the protected forest area of Sariska, as ordered by the Supreme Court.

@@Previously unstarred Question 611, transferred from 30-4-93.

Strengthening Ties with Nepal

1061. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE :
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA :
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE :
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) what steps have been taken since January this year towards strengthening ties with Nepal, including economic, cultural ties; and

(b) what further steps are contemplated in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA) : (a) and (b) Since January 1993 several steps have been taken to strengthen the close economic and cultural ties between India and Nepal. Discussions with Nepal have covered a wide range of activities such as cooperation in the utilisation of water resources and

assistance to Nepal for various projects, education and technical assistance have been continued. India and Nepal exchanged three letters on 16th February, 1993 further liberlising the trade and transit regime between the two countries.

In the cultural area, the first meeting of the Board of Directors of the B.P. Koirala India-Nepal Foundation was held in January 1993 to approve various proposals to strengthen cultural and scholarly ties between India and Nepal.

Discovery of Explosives by Lebanese Coast Guard

1062. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Lebanese coastguard have discovered two India bound ships laden with explosives;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether the manifesto of these two ships have been passed on to Interpol for further investigation;

(d) if so, details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to stop smuggling of arms and explosives to India through sea route ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA) : (a) Ministry have seen press reports to this effect. Enquiries have been made with the Lebanese and Cypriot authorities as also the news agency which filed the story. No evidence could be found to confirm the press report.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

(e) Government is vigilant in checking smuggling through the sea route and all law enforcing authorities have been alerted.

Establishing Direct Contacts with Myanmar's Military Junta

1063. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India propose to establish direct contacts with the Myanmar's (Burma) Military Junta; and

(b) if so, what are the details ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA) : (a) Since the take over of power by the Myanmar Army under the aegis of the State Law and Order Restoration Council in September, 1988, Government have maintained a working relationship with Myanmar. The question of Government proposing to establish direct contacts with the Myanmar Military Junta therefore does not arise.

(b) Does not arise.

Nagotiated Settlement of Kashmir Problem

1064. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that John Major, the British Prime Minister had suggested to Pakistani Prime Minister to start dialogue with India to find a negotiated settlement of the Kashmir problem;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Government;

(c) whether John Major during his visit in last January or at any other time mooted three point peace plan on Kashmir; and